THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) According to the latest official statistics, the investment in R&D as a percentage of Gross National Product (GNP) by the private sector during 1998-99 was 0.18%. During this period investment of the public sector (including the Government) was 0.63% of which the share of public sector enterprises was 0.04%.

(b) The Government has been encouraging private sector investments in R&D through several fiscal incentives and other support measures such as income tax relief for R&D expenditure, weighted tax deduction for sponsored research, custom duty exemption on goods imported for use in Government funded R&D projects, support in the form of grants for industrial R&D projects, support to R&D projects through sector specific programmes of various scientific and economic Ministries and National Awards for outstanding R&D achievements.

Research for treating snake bites

461. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Scientists have discovered that chicken eggs can become a source of molecules to treat snake bites; and

(b) if so, the details of the research made by the Scientists of Mittal Mallaya Scientific Research Organisation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a study being conducted at the Vittal Mallaya Scientific Research Foundation, Bangalore supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, it has been found that chicken eggs can become a source of anti-venom to treat snake-bites against all four common Indian poisonous snakes, viz., Bungarus caeruleus (Krait), Naja naja (cobra), Echis carinatus (saw-scaled viper) and Vipera russelli (Russell's viper) in isolation as well as in combination. Preliminary results have been encouraging. Currently, standardization of purification methods for large

scale production of IgY antibodies and chronic toxicity and immunotoxicity studies to establish the safety of the final ASV preparations for administration to snake bite victims have been undertaken.

Recovery of loans by TDB

462. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Development Board is facing problems in recovering the loans given to the companies to help them commercialise indigenous technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of companies and the amount outstanding against them; and

(c) the steps taken by the TDB for early recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Technology Development Board has signed so far 110 agreements with industrial concerns, etc. for commercializing technologies. The Board has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 469 crores against which it has disbursed Rs. 401 crores. The Board's assistance has resulted in manufacture of a number of products in sectors such as medical and health, chemicals and engineering.

As on January 15, 2003, there were 6 companies which have defaulted and the amount outstanding were Rs. 11.22 crores including interest. The list is given below. Appropriate legal proceedings have been initiated:

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Amount outstanding as on 15.01.2003 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Alpha Amins Private Limited, Chennai.	2.18
2.	J.K. Drugs & Pharmaceutical Limited, New Delhi.	2.16
3.	Cousik Machinery Manufactures (P) Limited, Coimbatore	0.46